

Media, PA — A report released today finds that the Greater Philadelphia region ranks second in the nation among top life sciences clusters in an overall measure that analyzes employment, research and development capacity, output, workforce, and various other areas necessary to build a top life sciences cluster. Congressman Joe Sestak (PA-07) noted the improvement from a number three ranking in the last study by Milken Institute, a nonprofit, independent economic think tank, which rated the San Francisco region second in 2005. Pennsylvania BIO, an organization created to ensure Pennsylvania is a global leader in the biosciences, participated in announcing the results of the study.

“This report affirms our region’s strong tradition of innovation, production and investment in the life sciences,” said Congressman Sestak. “I especially want to congratulate Pennsylvania BIO as well as the many companies and employees in my District from the biotechnology, pharmaceutical, healthcare and other fields that have contributed to this critical piece of our local economy, as the study find that one sixth of jobs in our region are tied to the life sciences.

“I look forward to partnering with area businesses and other organizations to ensure that Philadelphia remains a hub for research, development and service in these industries. We cannot rest on our laurels, but must confront the challenges we face, most notably the report’s findings that “the region has yet to develop the entrepreneurial sophistication” of other areas in terms of small business performance, and the overall trend in Pennsylvania that shows an aging population that is the third oldest in the nation.

“I know that the common goals and necessary motivation exists among business and educational institutions to develop youth in our region that can contribute to our economic growth. In my initiative that brings together local school districts and area businesses to teach students about career opportunities in high-value manufacturing, I have found a strong commitment from everyone involved to giving small businesses a talent pool from which to recruit. Continuing to cultivate a relationship between the life sciences industries and educators at every level will help ensure that talent develops, trains and prospers in our region. As a result, we will be able to remain a leader in these important fields that save and improve lives.”

Congressman Sestak has worked to partner with many companies in his District that have played an important role in the regional ranking. Last week he visited Cephalon in Chester County, which has employed many residents of his District since it was founded in 1987 as a biotech start-up. It now ranks as one of the world’s top ten biopharmaceutical companies with annual revenues of \$1.94 billion and nearly 3,000 employees. The Congressman met with

company executives to discuss their industry and specifically the Pharmaceutical Research and Manufacturers of America finding that medical innovation can result in \$149 billion in savings for government programs by 2025.

According to the Milken Institute Study, the growth of the Greater Philadelphia region's life sciences cluster is primarily the result of its position as a major center for the U.S. pharmaceutical industry and its strong local research infrastructure, which includes some of the nation's top-ranked universities. In the past four years, the Greater Philadelphia region has been strengthened in a number of areas including the economic impact and growth of its life sciences industry, a category in which it previously lead second place New York by 0.3 points and now leads by 7 points. The report notes that the region's diverse mix of university research, world-renowned teaching hospitals, established and emerging life sciences companies, technology spin-out companies, and other start-ups – all interacting in a network – encourages companies to establish operations and grow in Greater Philadelphia. Underpinning all of this interconnected activity is an evolving support network for entrepreneurs, including venture capitalists, high-tech absorptive capacity, and providers of professional services.

*Born and raised in Delaware County, former 3-star Admiral Joe Sestak served in the Navy for 31 years and now serves as the Representative from the 7th District of Pennsylvania. He led a series of operational commands at sea, including Commander of an aircraft carrier battle group of 30 U.S. and allied ships with over 15,000 sailors and 100 aircraft that conducted operations in Afghanistan and Iraq. After 9/11, Joe was the first Director of "Deep Blue," the Navy's anti-terrorism unit that established strategic and operations policies for the "Global War on Terrorism." He served as President Clinton's Director for Defense Policy at the National Security Council in the White House, and holds a Ph.D. in Political Economy and Government from Harvard University. According to the office of the House Historian, Joe is the highest-ranking former military officer ever elected to the U.S. Congress.*

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